

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A peel type blind rivet assembly for setting in relatively soft material, said rivet assembly comprising:

an elongate tubular body having a shank disposed about a shank axis and a preformed head at a first end thereof and an expandable portion at the opposed end of the shank remote from the head and said expandable portion defining ~~a plurality of~~ three slots, which slots terminate remote from said first end, said slots defining a triangular aperture having substantially flat sides; and

a mandrel having a stem extending through and co-axial with said tubular body, said mandrel further having a head having a maximum external diameter greater than the internal diameter of the body, said head having a shoulder portion, said shoulder portion being substantially perpendicular to the stem[[:]],

wherein[[:]] at least one of said plurality of slots increases in width in a radial direction as it extends from an outer surface of the tubular body to an inner surface of said shank, and wherein the substantially flat sides tangentially engage the mandrel.

2. (Currently Amended) A blind rivet assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein ~~a pair of side walls of said at least one slot are curved~~ the substantially flat sides are convex.

3. (Previously Presented) A blind rivet assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein each of said plurality of slots are equally spaced about the circumference of said tubular body so that the angular displacement between adjacent slots about the shank axis is constant.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) A blind rivet assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein an axial inner end of at least one of said plurality of slots is radially inclined so that said at least one slot is longer adjacent said inner surface of said shank than adjacent said outer surface of said shank.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) A blind rivet assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein the wall thickness of said body is constant along its axial length.

8. (Previously Presented) A blind rivet assembly as claimed in claim 7 wherein the external diameter of said body is constant along its axial length.

9. (Previously Presented) A blind rivet assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein said mandrel stem has a reduced diameter section adjacent said shoulder said reduced diameter section having a circular cross-section.

10. (Previously Presented) A blind rivet assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein said maximum diameter of said mandrel head is equal to the diameter of said body.

11.–20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) A peel type blind rivet assembly for setting in relatively soft material, said rivet assembly comprising:

an elongate tubular body disposed about a body axis and a head at a first end thereof and an expandable portion at an opposed end of the body remote from the head and said expandable portion defining a plurality of slots, said slots terminating remote from said first end, said slots defining a triangular aperture having substantially flat sides;

a mandrel having a stem extending through and co-axial with said tubular body, said mandrel further having a head having a maximum external diameter greater than the internal diameter of the body, said head having a shoulder portion engagement surface, said shoulder portion engagement surface being substantially perpendicular to the stem; and

wherein at least one of said plurality of slots increases in width in a radial direction as it extends from an outer surface of the tubular body to an inner surface of said shank, and wherein the substantially flat sides tangentially engage the mandrel.

22. (New) A blind rivet assembly as claimed in claim 21 wherein the substantially flat sides are convex.

23. (New) A blind rivet assembly as claimed in claim 21 wherein each of said plurality of slots are equally spaced about the circumference of said tubular body so that the angular displacement between adjacent slots about the shank axis is constant.

24. (New) A blind rivet assembly as claimed in claim 21 wherein the flat sides are planar.

25. (New) A blind rivet assembly as claimed in claim 21 wherein an axial inner end of at least one of said plurality of slots is radially inclined so that said at least one slot is longer adjacent said inner surface of said shank than adjacent said outer surface of said shank.

26. (New) The blind rivet assembly as claimed in claim 24 wherein the opposed end defines a flat bearing surface engaged with the shoulder portion engagement surface.

27. (New) A blind rivet assembly as claimed in claim 21 wherein the wall thickness of said body is constant along its axial length.

28. (New) A blind rivet assembly as claimed in claim 27 wherein the external diameter of said body is constant along its axial length.

29. (New) A blind rivet assembly as claimed in claim 21 wherein said mandrel stem has a reduced diameter section adjacent said shoulder engagement surface, said reduced diameter section having a circular cross-section.

30. (New) A blind rivet assembly as claimed in claim 21 wherein said maximum diameter of said mandrel head is equal to the external diameter of said body.